

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 30, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 4-10, and 12, are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. New claim 24 is added. No new matter is added. Claims 1-24 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,577,622 to Schuster et al. (Schuster), in view of US Patent No. 6,870,916 to Henrikson et al. (Henrickson). The Office Action took the position that Schuster disclosed all of the features of these claims except allocating by means of the server, a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call. The Office Action asserted that Henrickson disclosed this feature. Applicant submits that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-11 depend, is directed to a method for administering conferencing resources in a communications system. A first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call is transmitted from a first terminal to a conference server. The server allocates a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call. A second message is transmitted from

the server to the first terminal, comprising the network address identifying the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated to the server. The communications system includes a plurality of terminals and the conference server.

Claim 12, from which claims 13-23 depend, is directed to a conference server for administering conferencing resources. A receiver unit is configured to receive from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call. An allocation unit is configured to allocate a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call. A transmission unit is configured to transmit to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address that identifies the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated by the server. The conference server administers conferencing resources in the communications system, wherein the communications system includes a plurality of terminals.

According to certain embodiments, the present invention utilizes two features in combination in order to achieve the advantageous effects thereof. That is, the present invention utilizes the server to both allocate a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call, and to transmit that address to the first terminal. Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references.

Schuster is directed to a system and a method for using a portable information device. Schuster describes a number of examples of methods by which conference calls

can be set up between three users. The methods are described in the context of the SIP protocol, in which there are two major architectural elements: the user agent and the network server (column 9, lines 5-6). In Figures 8A-10A, a calling user agent is represented by a data network telephone 208 and a PID 210. In Schuster, three specific embodiments for conference call set-up are discussed. Figures 8A, 9A and 10A and the corresponding portions of the description at column 18, line 32 to column 19, line 25, column 20, line 15 to column 21, line 18 and column 22, line 14 to column 23, line 16 illustrate the details of the methods described in Schuster.

Hendrickson is directed to a multimedia communications system and conferencing arrangements. Specifically, Hendrickson describes a system in which a conference establishment server receives from a first user a request for a conference, the request including details of the required conference such as participants, resources and rules.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least the feature of transmitting from the server to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address identifying the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated by the server, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 12.

As discussed in previous responses, Schuster only disclosed transmitting from server to a first terminal a message comprising the network address identifying a called party. Schuster merely discloses sending a network address identifying a called party

from the server to the first terminal whereas the present invention transmits the network address of a conference call resource. Henrikson fails to cure these deficiencies.

In the “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action, the Office Action took an unreasonably broad interpretation of what is meant by “a resource capable of sustaining the conference call” so as to include an address of a user. In the last three lines of item 2 of the Office Action, it is suggested that “a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call” is equivalent to the address where a callee is reachable (i.e. a user address). However, the Office Action’s interpretation discounts a network address of a user when interpreted in a reasonable manner. Further, the resource referred to in the presently claimed invention does not correspond to a user/user equipment.

Still further, Applicant submits that the comments in item 2 of the Office Action are contradictory to the comments in the bridging paragraph between pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. The Office Action first asserts that Schuster does not disclose a method comprising allocating by means of a server and network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining conference calls. However, on pages 3 and 4, the Office Action asserts that Schuster discloses transmitting such an address from the server to the first terminal. Thus, the Office Action applied the teachings in a piecemeal manner because the Office Action on the one hand, asserted that Schuster does not disclose allocation of any such network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining a conference call, yet still asserts that such an address is disclosed as being sent from the server to the first

terminal. Thus, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 12.

Applicant submits that because claims 2-11, 13-23 depend from claims 1 and 12, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 12, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicant submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of claims 1-23. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

As stated above, new claim 24 is added. Applicant submits that claim 24 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references.

Applicant submits that each of claims 1-24 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-24 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Check No. 16110